



**Parks and Recreation Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes, March 2, 2015; 4:30 PM  
Council Chamber**

**ITEM 1**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:30 PM – The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Dobbs. Committee members present were Alan Mogridge, Eric Ankrom, Deborah Page and Committee Liaison Public Works Director Chip Reeves. Others in attendance were Eric Boucher of GiddyUp Productions LLC, Amy Schwartz of the YWCA MDI, Jennifer Wright of the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Dean Read of the Bar Harbor (MDI) Rotary Club, and Andrew Shea of the Acadian Little League.

**ITEM 2**

**A. Excused Absence(s):** John Kelly

**ITEM 3**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Mr. Mogridge, to approve the Agenda; motion passed (4-0).

**ITEM 4**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Mogridge moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the Minutes of January 5, 2015; motion passed (4-0).

**ITEM 5**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**A. Request from the YWCA MDI to Hold the Taste of Bar Harbor Craft Fair on the Village Green from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 16, 2015.**

Ms. Schwartz represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and non-profit statement have been received. The event includes a two-hour set-up, and the event specifics are the same as for the previous year. Chair Dobbs reviewed the application using the Findings of Fact Sheet.

Ms. Page moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

**B. Request from the YWCA MDI to Hold the Labor Day Art Show on the Village Green from 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 5, to 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 6, 2015.**

Ms. Schwartz represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and non-profit statement have been received. The event specifics are the same as for the previous year. Mr. Ankrom moved to waive the reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet for this application because

the responses are the same as for the Taste of Bar Harbor Craft Fair above. Mr. Mogridge seconded the motion; motion passed (4-0).

Mr. Mogridge moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

**C. Request from the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to Hold the Art in the Park on the Village Green from 6:00 AM Saturday, June 20, to 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 21, 2015.**

Ms. Wright represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and non-profit statement have been received. The event specifics are the same as for the previous year. Chair Dobbs reviewed the application using the Findings of Fact Sheet.

Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Ms. Page, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

**D. Request from the MDI Mortgage Group (as sponsor for Coastal Fine Arts Alliance of Maine) to Hold the Gallery on the Green from 6:00 AM on Saturday, September 19, to 6:00 PM on Sunday, September 20, 2015.**

No representative of the applicant was in attendance. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and non-profit statement have been received. Chair Dobbs reviewed the application using the Findings of Fact Sheet. He remarked that he knows the sponsor personally and vouches for its validity.

Mr. Mogridge moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, that the application be approved with the condition of adherence to the approved art display layout provided; motion passed (4-0).

**E. Request from the Bar Harbor (MDI) Rotary Club to Hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast / Seafood Festival on the Athletic Field from 8:00 AM on Friday, July 3, to 6:00 PM on July 4, 2015 (Rain Dates July 4-5, 2015).**

Mr. Read represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and non-profit statement have been received for this annual event; the insurance liability certificate is outstanding. Chair Dobbs reviewed the application using the Findings of Fact Sheet. Ms. Page inquired if all of the organizations participating in this event are non-profit; Mr. Read responded affirmatively.

Mr. Mogridge reported that he is a Rotarian. Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Ms. Page, that there is no objection relative to a conflict of interest and that Mr. Mogridge could vote regarding the application approval; motion passed (3-0).

Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Ms. Page, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

**F. Request from Witham Hotels (as sponsor for GiddyUp Productions LLC) to Hold its Rock Lobster Relay on the Athletic Field from 8:00 AM on Thursday, June 18, to 6:00 PM on Friday, June 19, 2015.**

Mr. Boucher represented the applicant and announced that the application is being withdrawn at this time. While there is a commitment to the event, preparations are not ready for it to be done well in 2015. As there was a risk at taking registrations before park use permit approval, registration has not been opened to

participants for 2015, and no payments have been received. He has provided a presentation of the event and attended this meeting to get a sense from the Committee if plans for the use of the Athletic Field could be made for 2016, to answer questions, provide clarifications and to receive concerns and recommendations from the Committee relative to the use of the Athletic Field. The goal is to make the relay an annual event in the same place, and he seeks a toe-hold for this purpose.

Mr. Boucher is the owner of GiddyUp Productions LLC and has one employee. The company is a professional sporting event organizer for such events as marathons, half-marathons and trail races. The Rock Lobster Relay is a new event consisting of a 200-mile running relay race from Bar Harbor to Portland and has been two years in the making thus far. The format has been around for 30 to 40 years in other states; Maine has not done this. The Rock Lobster Relay team registration fee is \$1,000 (the industry standard is \$1,500).

He reported there has been a lot of interest. There would be a maximum of 200 teams having up to 12 runners each plus two vans. All participants would start in Bar Harbor with one person from each of 20 teams running at a time in leapfrog fashion. There would be some fast and some slow teams. The footprint on the Athletic Field would be a registration area having a 10 x 20 or 10 x 30 or larger tent. An alternative might an arrangement with the YMCA across the street. The maximum number of vans at a time would be plus or minus 40 vans. Two vans per team check in, with one leaving for the next transition area. The proposed event has been capped regarding the number of participants. It will be tested, and if it goes well, it would be ratcheted up. The analysis is based on the plan as presented to this Committee.

Mr. Boucher had spoken about the event with Bar Harbor Police Officer David Kearns two years ago at a time when Bar Harbor had no police chief. He also approached Mt. Desert Police Chief Jim Willis (who now serves both communities). He heard no issues from the departments. Mr. Reeves has provided the presentation packet to the police. Starting the event at the end of town at the Athletic Field alleviates safety issues associated with an in-town start line. The plan is to work with non-profits along the route to manage transition areas.

The Committee provided feedback based on the information provided. Ms. Page explained that she thinks the event is a great idea and that the Committee is looking to know the impact. The more detail provided, the better. Mr. Mogridge said he would generally support the idea. He is less concerned about the number of people; the number of vehicles is a concern. Mr. Reeves suggested that a future park use permit application for this event should include a sketch of the Athletic Field and how it would be used, along with an event history. Chair Dobbs indicated there is a positive impression for the event. More logistics need to be known in a thorough definitive application. He further suggested a back-up site; i.e., use of the College of the Atlantic. He reminded that the application could not be approved before February 1 of the year in which the event would take place. The Committee expressed appreciation that Mr. Boucher attended for a discussion and looks forward to next year's application.

#### **G. Acadian Little League (ALL): Andrew Shea Presentation of Athletic Field 2014 Project Recap and 2015 Project List.**

Mr. Shea expressed high appreciation to the Highway Division crew for its work on the ball diamonds in a manner that has been vested, very willing and in which they sought out ways to help. He said it is heartwarming to watch that crew.

As required under the memorandum of understanding (MOU) [copies provided to Committee members] between the Town and ALL, Mr. Shea presented the annual Athletic Field project recap for 2014 and planned project list for 2015 (Appendix A). Listed on Appendix A is a scoreboard available from MDI High School. Unless it has multi-use (i.e., soccer, Little League), it may not fit with the Athletic Field scheme. With the initial major projects completed, the program is getting closer to facility maintenance mode. Annual maintenance has averaged out at \$5,000. According to the MOU, once Appendix A projects are completed, 25% of the banner revenue would be allotted to ALL for general operations, and 75% would be budgeted for projects by mutual decision.

Mr. Shea described the banner program on the ALL fields which raises revenue (\$8,000 to \$10,000 annually) used to enhance all fields. He explained that in 2011, year one of the program, ALL fund reserves were contributed to expedite completion of projects, with repayment to ALL to be made over time from annual net positive banner revenue. The balance due ALL is now down to \$4,088.

Consideration for the longevity of the MOU arrangement should be given toward a time when the ALL principals (Andy Shea and Tony McKim) may not function in the current manner. ALL verbally proposes the creation of a full time, year round executive director position to maintain consistency, continued working relationships and provide strong leadership. For example, the banners should be kept looking good and of the same color, and annual Turface field applications should be made. The person in that position would work with schools and youth organizations, including non-competitive entities. Programs would be improved; i.e., coach training opportunities. Messrs. Shea and McKim would focus on higher level projects, do it better and maintain relationships.

ALL verbally proposes to defer the \$4,088 owed to ALL and to use it to help fund the executive director position. Mr. Shea indicated this would be a low-paying position. Further, anything above the \$5,000 annual maintenance costs would be transferred to the executive director. If the position terminated, the overage would go back to the MOU. Mr. Reeves suggested the support of an executive director could help to get teams built up and better coordinated. As an example, Connors Emerson currently uses a ball diamond on the Athletic Field for only four games per year. ALL is in a good position to see the dynamics of other schools' needs. Mr. Shea remarked that there are differing diamond standards for the various leagues and that there could be better use of the overall facility with a multi-purpose dual arrangement addressing soccer, baseball/softball groups, and so forth.

Mr. Reeves advised that the Committee would have to make recommendation to approve a formal proposal and its effect on the MOU in which the 25% / 75% split would change, and to defer the \$4,088 repayment to ALL toward the proposed executive director position. Chair Dobbs queried if the Committee wanted Messrs. Reeves and Shea to draft an agreement, to which the members nodded approval.

## **H. Other Discussion.**

- Park Use Permit Application. The Committee agreed that Question #10 of the Park Use Permit Application should include the word "major" to clarify the response relative to the Park Use Ordinance and compliance with the 90-day requirement of § 144-25.E.(1)(b). Question #10 will read as follows:

"Has this organization sponsored any major events within 90 days of the proposed event?"

- Park Use Applicant / Sponsor: General clarification was made regarding an *applicant* being different from the *sponsor* of a special event, as well as which provides the insurance liability. The sponsor

must be a Bar Harbor-based entity which provides local accountability. Insurance liability coverage will be provided by either the applicant or the sponsor.

- Grant Park Improvements Project: A public hearing will be held for scope review and park neighbor response.

**ITEM 6**  
**NEXT MEETING DATE**  
March 23, 2015  
Public Works Facility  
50 Public Works Way (off Crooked Road)

**ITEM 7**  
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Banis  
Recording Secretary